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MASTER OF HIS CRAFT.

Immigrant Station Furnishes Practical Sermon on the Subject of Competence.

Among the immigrants awaiting examination at Ellis Island recently was a tall young fellow with a little black bag under his arm. He was a Pole, about 20 years old, and his admission was a pleasing and dramatic incident, witnessed by Arthur Henry. The lesson it teaches is as good for native Americans as for immigrants, says Scribner's Magazine.

When the young man's turn came to answer the inevitable question: "How much money have you?" he smiled and answered frankly: "None."

"But don't you know you can't come in here if you have no money and no friend to speak for you? Where are you going?"

"To Fall River, first. I have a friend there. Then I shall see the whole country. I shall make money. You will hear of me."

The inspector proceeded rather sharply: "How will you get to Fall River? Where will you eat and sleep to-night?"

"I shall be all right," replied the young fellow, confidently. "With this"—tapping the black bag—"I can go anywhere."

"What is it?"

The Pole laughed, and, opening the bag, took out a cornet. It was a fine instrument, and gave evidence of loving care.

"Can you play it well?" asked the official, more kindly.

In answer, the young Pole stepped out into the open space and, lifting the horn to his lips, began the beautiful intermezzo from "Cavalleria Rusticana." At the first note everyone in the great building stood still and listened. The long lines of immigrants became motionless. The forlorn waiters in the pit looked up and their faces became tender. Even the meanest among them seemed to feel the charms of the pleading notes.

When the music ceased there was a burst of applause. Shouts of "Bravo!" "Good boy!" "Give us some more!" came from every side. The physicians, who had a few moments before made their hurried and not over gentle examination, joined in the applause. The officer who had questioned him so sharply slapped him on the back. The commissioner himself had come up from the office at the sound of the horn, and asked for the particulars.

When he heard them he turned to the agent of the Fall River boats and said: "Give this fellow a passage, including meals, and charge it to me."

"I will charge it to myself," said the agent, and he took the young Pole by the arm and led him away.

The incident was a sermon on competence—a lesson on what it means to be a master. The trade may be music or farming or bricklaying—it does not matter. The man who has conquered it, who knows it, root and branch, can point to it as confidently as the young Pole pointed to his cornet, and say, as he did: "With this I can go anywhere."

DATE PALMS WILL GROW HERE

This Gives Hope of Redeeming the Alkali Lands of the Southwestern States.

The date palm may solve the problem of what to do with the arid and alkali lands of Arizona, California and other western states. Experiments have been made in the past by the agricultural department and experiment stations, but renewed interest is being taken by the section of plant introduction of the department of agriculture, and Prof. D. G. Fairchild, agricultural explorer for the department now traveling in Africa, has procured a number of suckers, or offshoots, from the delta of the Nile which he has shipped to the department and which will be distributed in the southwestern part of this country.

In the United States the date is an article of luxury, but in its native country it is a most important food, many regions in Arabia and the Sahara being uninhabitable but for the date palm. The United States annually imports nearly a million dollars' worth of dates, but it is possible, the department believes, to raise all the dates needed in this country. The date palm, although grown profitably only in arid and semiarid regions, is not in the proper sense of the word a desert plant. It requires a fairly abundant and, above all, a constant supply of water at the roots, and at the same time it delights in a perfectly dry and very hot climate. The date palm is able to stand much more cold than an orange tree, but not so much as a peach tree.

Corn Oil Versus Olive Oil. The industrial and commercial papers of continental Europe are calling attention to the approaching competition of American corn oil. It is stated that this oil is greatly appreciated from an industrial point of view and that its fine golden color and agreeable taste make it a possible rival for older and better-known varieties of table oil. Well-directed efforts have been made for some time, notably at the Paris exposition, to establish this product in foreign markets, and from present indications it would appear that they have been successful.—Detroit Free Press.

Cause Enough. Citizen—Why did you run that fellow in?

Officer Fitzelheimer—Well, he sassed me, and said I was full of beer and Philippians.—Indianapolis News.

The Reason. The reason some people can loaf so much is because they do not pay their debts.—Washington (D.C.) Democrat.

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